

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, and 14-33 are pending in the current application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, 14-23 and 28-29 are amended. By this Amendment, no claims are added or cancelled. Claims 1, 14, 17, and 20-23 are the independent claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing this application on December 7, 9 and 10. Applicants have amended the claims as discussed. For instance, Applicants have amended all the independent claims to include the features “the entry point map including path change information for identifying entry points at which enter to an associated reproduction path from another reproduction path is permitted and exit from the associated reproduction path to another reproduction path is permitted.” In addition, Applicants have amended claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, and 14-19 to recite “optical disk” instead of “computer readable medium.” The Examiner indicated that these amendments would overcome the references, and the pending claims would be allowed if Applicants also filed a terminal disclaimer, which is discussed below.

During the interview, the Examiner requested Applicants to file a terminal disclaimer over copending Application No. 10/642,693. However, Applicants do not believe that copending Application No. 10/642,693 raises any obviousness-type double patenting issues with respect to the present invention. For instance, Applicants believe that the claims of the present application are different from the claims of copending Application No. 10/642,693 so as to not raise an obviousness-type double patenting rejection. If the Examiner still disagrees, the Examiner is invited to call Jared Scholz at 703-668-8006 to further discuss. As such, Applicants

respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in the next USPTO communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20-24, 26, 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,962, hereinafter "Sawabe") in view of Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523, hereinafter "Kikuchi"), Yamane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,528, hereinafter "Yamane"), and Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,477,833, hereinafter "Kato"), and claims 5, 16, 19, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawabe in view of Kikuchi, Yamane and Kato, and further in view of Sugimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,140, hereinafter "Sugimoto"). Because the Examiner indicated that the amended claims would be allowable, these rejections are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

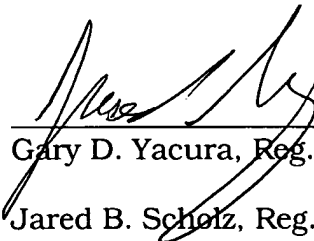
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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